

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8301
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VALLETTA 02034

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, MT, LY
SUBJECT: MALTESE-LIBYAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. THE FULL TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE DRAWN UP ON
THE CONCLUSION OF COL. QADHAFI'S VISIT TO MALTA FROM
JULY 1 TO JULY 3 FOLLOWS:

2. "AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MALTA, DR. ANTON BUTTIGIEG AND THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. DOM
MINTOFF, COL. MUAMMAR GADDAFI, THE LEADER OF THE GREAT 1ST
SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PEOPLE'S
GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB
JAMAHIRIA PAID AN OFFICIAL AND FRIENDLY VISIT TO THE
REPUBLIC OF MALTA BETWEEN THE 1ST AND 3RD JULY 1978 AND
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WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARAB LIBYAN DELEGATION.

3. DURING HIS VISIT COL. MUAMMAR GADDAFI WAS WARMLY
RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MALTA. THAT RECEPTION REFLECTED THE STRONG LINKS OF
FRIENDSHIP BINDING THE PEOPLES OF MALTA AND OF THE LIBYAN
JAMAHIRIA AS WELL AS THE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES

RESULTING FROM THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS, THEIR SAME ETHNIC ORIGIN AND THE COMMON ASPIRATIONS OF THE MALTESE AND ARAB PEOPLES.

4. DURING THE VISIT TALKS WERE HELD BETWEEN COL. GADDAFI AND THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. MINTOFF ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE TWO LEADERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE HIGH STANDARD WHICH HAS BEEN MAINTAINED IN THE CONSOLIDATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE VARIOUS FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR. IN PARTICULAR THE ARAB LIBYAN SIDE SHOWED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOUR PARTY IN ITS EFFORTS TO CHANGE ITS ROLE FROM THAT OF A MILITARY FORTRESS INTO A BRIDGE OF PEACE HAVING AS ITS FOUNDATION A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

5. THE TWO SIDES STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES AND AGREED TO INCREASE THE JOINT EFFORTS TO REMOVE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA IN ORDER TO TURN IT INTO A LAKE OF PEACE IN THE SERVICE OF THE REGION AND OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

6. FOR THIS END THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIA PROMISED ITS FULL POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO THE
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GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA IN THEIR DETERMINATION THAT MALTA WILL NEVER AGAIN HAVE A FOREIGN MILITARY BASE ON ITS SOIL.

7. THE MALTESE SIDE EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED BY MALTA FROM THE JAMAHIRIA ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, OIL, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, AND BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM, AND TO FURTHER JOINT INVESTMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

8. THE TWO SIDES VIEWED WITH CONCERN THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN THE ARAB REGION RESULTING FROM ZIONIST AGGRESSION TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE ARAB NATION. THE TWO SIDES REITERATED THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE ARAB PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND AND TO ESTABLISH THEREIN A DEMOCRATIC STATE.

9. THE TWO SIDES CONDEMNED THE RACIAL REGIMES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND RENEWED THEIR

SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE,
NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TO REMOVE THESE RACIAL REGIMES.

10. THE ARAB LIBYAN SIDE AND THE MALTESE SIDE ALSO CON-
DEMNNED THE COLONIALIST MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE
AFRICAN CONTINENT AND DEMANDED AN END TO SUCH INTERVENTION
IN ORDER THAT THE AFRICANS MAY BE FREE TO DETERMINE THEIR
OWN DESTINY WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

11. THE TWO SIDES AGAIN REITERATED THEIR FIRM BELIEF IN
THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT.
IN THEIR VIEW NON-ALIGNMENT HAD AN ACTIVE ROLE TO PLAY IN
SUPPORTING JUST CAUSES AND PEACE. THE MALTESE AND THE
ARAB LIBYAN SIDES CONFIRMED THEIR RESPECT FOR THE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VALLETTA 02034

PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEY EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF THIS ORGANISATION OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY AMONG NATIONS.

12. COL. MUAMMAR GADDAFI EXTENDED AN INVITATION BOTH TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA TO VISIT THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIA. THE INVITATIONS WERE WARMLY ACCEPTED AND THE DATES FOR THE VISITS WILL BE FIXED IN DUE COURSE."

13. COMMENT: OUR ASSESSMENT OF THOSE ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE RELATED TO MALTESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS ARE PROVIDED SEPTEL. WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER SUBJECTS TREATED IN THE COMMUNIQUE WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE LANGUAGE RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO
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KNOW HOW THE FORMULATION ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION COMPARES WITH THAT CUSTOMARILY USED BY THE REJECTIONIST STATES. LAINGEN

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